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JAPAN.

*Reports from Yokohama—Inspection of vessels—Smallpox in Japan—
Plague in Formosa.*

Assistant Surgeon Moore reports, April 16, as follows:

During the week ended April 9, 1904, three steamers, having an aggregate personnel of 302 crew and 461 passengers, were inspected; 18 crew and 329 steerage passengers were bathed and 404 pieces of baggage were disinfected.

For the above period infectious diseases were reported in Yokohama, as follows: Diphtheria, 1 case, no deaths; dysentery, 3 cases, no deaths. No cases of cholera or plague have been reported to me as originating in Japan proper (excluding Formosa) during the present year.

Plague is quite prevalent in Formosa. Since the beginning of the present year to April 10, 1904, 966 cases, with 654 deaths, have been reported, showing a considerable increase as compared with a corresponding period of 1903.

Smallpox is reported from several localities in southern Japan. The disease is said to have attained almost epidemic proportions in Nagasaki, where more than 300 cases have occurred. A few cases of smallpox are reported from Moji, an important coaling port, and Sasebo, the site of a naval station. Doubtless the Japanese sanitary officials will soon be able to check this infection, which was originally imported from Vladivostok.

A severe outbreak of smallpox has occurred in Liao-yang, an important strategic point in China, held by the Russian army. Press reports put the number of new cases at 300 daily, but do not clearly specify whether this includes cases occurring among the civilian population. In any case it seems probable that infectious diseases will play a not unimportant rôle in the present war. It is stated that the Japanese authorities are adopting extraordinary measures for securing the best possible sanitary condition of the troops.

Stress has been laid upon the fact that both Japanese and Russians find in tea their habitual beverage, and that this circumstance should militate against the spread of infections which gain entrance into the human organism through the alimentary tract. Certainly, from an American standpoint, very little plain water is imbibed by the average Japanese.

During the week ended April 16, 1904, 6 vessels were inspected, 367 steerage passengers were bathed, and 514 pieces of baggage were disinfected.

No report of contagious disease has been received for the above period.

Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Number of emigrants per steamship *China* recommended, April 16, for rejection: For Honolulu, 8; for San Francisco, 6.

MEXICO.

*Reports from Progreso and Merida—Inspection of vessels—Yellow
fever.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Harrison reports as follows: Week ended April 30, 1904. Present officially estimated population, 8,000; 1 case